Restructuring of STC

11. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation is planning for major restructuring;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the export/import through STC will have any impact on its restructuring; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Consequent upon the decanalisation of import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC, the Govt, have been reviewing the need to re-orient STC in a manner consistent with the liberalised economy and a competitive environment. As a part of expanding its trade activities, particularly in the non-canalised sector, STC is in the process of a major diversification programme a iming to achieve an annual turnover of Rs. 5,000 crores within the next five years by adopting the following strategies:—

— Increased emphasis on direct buying & selling;
— Strengthening overseas marketing network;
— Increased trade with CIS countries;
—Entering into joint ventures;
—Undertaking OGL imports;
—Expanding domestic trading.

Utilization of Funds Under M.Ps. Local area Development Scheme

12. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds for 1995-96 in the M.Ps., Local Area Development scheme will be allotted and released to the District Collectors even if the money for 1994-95 is not fully spent;

(b) if so, whether funds has already been released to the Collectors;

(c) if not, whether it would cause inordinate delays in implementing the current yuear's schemes because last years funds is being spent very slowly; and

(d) what is being done to ensure that the fund is utilised fast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) The first instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs for the current year 1995-96 has been/is being released without relating to the ^-progress of expenditure of the money allotted for 1993-94 and 1994-95. The concerned Collectors have been/are being intimated at the time of release of first instalment that the second instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs will be linked to the progress of expenditure of the scheme till July, 1996.

(b) and (c) First instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs has been released in respect of all Lok Sabha Members, barring two nominated Members from whom choice of districts is yet awaited. Release of money in respect of Rajya Sabha Members is in process dapending upon the receipt of choice of district from them.

(d) The District Collector have been addressed to speed up implementation of works under MPLADS.